

Draft

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2017 Village of Estero Legislative Priorities

First, the Village of Estero is deeply appreciative of the support provided by the State in establishing our Village as a newly incorporated local government. Our commitment to better serve the needs of our residents has been and will continue to be our primary objective.

The Village Council has remained true to the objectives that we committed to the Legislature in 2015, including the notion of operating in our version of “government light”. Consistent with that notion, we have continued to operate with only limited full-time staff, operating with only 6 full-time positions, while we continue to rely on contracts with private firms to provide local government services. In addition, and maybe most importantly, we have lowered the Village of Estero property tax rate from .8398 to .7998 – a real reduction in taxes. At this point, Estero has the lowest property tax rate in Southwest Florida.

To continue and improve the quality of life for Estero residents and the local business climate we respectfully request the following:

1. Support for interim road improvements on Corkscrew Road at I-75 to improve access to the freeway and improve the level of service at the intersection to acceptable levels.
2. Support funding for the acquisition of the “Edison Farms” parcel (located due East and South of the Village) to preserve this key environmental area, create the potential for a local park with trails and viewing areas, provide mitigation of storm water impacts and reduction in flooding within Estero and adjoining communities, and preserve the value of this unique resource as a ground water recharge area.

3. The Village of Estero supports State legislation to limit discharges from Lake Okeechobee and the negative down-stream impacts to the Gulf and Estero Bay.
4. The Village of Estero also opposes any legislation that would pre-empt Home Rule protections including, but not limited to mandating fertilizer standards and fracking.
5. The Village of Estero supports the efforts of Representative Fitzenhagen to reduce the cost of health care by providing for the creation of Recovery Care Centers in House Bill 145.

Respectfully submitted.